



RMC Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 31, 2022

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Type: Zoom Teleconference

participants: Co-chair Chris Benzing, Janice Palmer, Greg Padgham, John Hartline, Cassandra Vanhooser, Scott Warner, Don Mulrine, Susan Harrison, Debbie Bowden, Kimberly Kratovil, Susan O'Neill, Alice Settle-Raskin, Monique Snyder, Matt Tefteau, Diana Hsu, Cassie Shirk, Kaleigh Leager, Josh Bollinger, Tyler Patton, Diane Hsu, Charlotte Davis, Dakota Matthews, Amanda Clevenger, Megan D'Arcy.

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Co-chair Chris Benzing welcomed everyone and started the meeting at 2:01pm.
- II. Review of January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Co-chair Chris Benzing asked for a motion to approved the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Don Mulrine moved the motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Susan Harrison seconded it. Co-Chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The minutes for 1/24/2022 were unanimously approved.
- III. 2022 Bill Tracking:
 - a. HB250: Private Well Safety Act of 2022, House - Hearing 2/02 - 1:00 - Environment and Transportation. Ms. Davis stated this bill continued from last year requiring rental residences with private wells be tested every three years. The Committee discussed whether there would be resources available if an issue is identified. Ms. Davis further stated that this bill deals with rentals only. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status: Monitor*
 - b. SB296: Land Use - Agritourism – Definition, Senate - Hearing 2/02 at 1:00 - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the bill changes the agrotourism definition and this bill allows camping on farms, known as 'glamping'. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status: Monitor*
 - c. SB538: Land Use - Agritourism – Definition, Senate - First Reading - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. Ms. Charlotte stated that this bill changes the definition of agritourism and would allow farms to hold any type of special occasion. Ms. Cassandra Vanhooser stated that this legislation would enable counties to make decisions and the applicant would be subject to county rules. Ms. Vanhooser further stated that there is concern from the tourism industry, especially the hotel and lodging associations and others, that are concerned this is a way to circumvent paying the accommodations tax. The Committee decided to monitor the bill. *Status: Monitor*
 - d. SB391/HB418: Economic Development – More Jobs for Marylanders Program – Extension and Alterations, Senate - 2/08 - 2:30 - Budget Taxation/ House - 3/02 1:00 - Ways and Means. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill extends the More Jobs for Maryland Act as it relates to tax credits and extends that sunset to 2027

and supports job growth. Ms. Debbie Bowden stated that it's been a great tool for Caroline County and made the motion to support the bill. Ms. Cassandra Vanhooser seconded it. Co-Chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*

- e. SB393/HB414: Economic Development – Project Restore Program and Fund, Senate - First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/ House - Hearing 2/23 at 1:00. Ms. Davis stated that this bill focuses on a new program that the Department of Housing and Community Development recently rolled out that provides businesses located in retail spaces downtown a \$2500 monthly payment for rental purposes. Ms. Davis further stated that this bill would codify an existing program and be beneficial to rural main streets. Ms. Cassandra made the motion, Mr. Don Mulrine seconded it. Co-Chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mr. Darren Jarboe asked to abstain. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*
- f. SB394/HB408: Statewide Targeted Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act of 2022, Senate - 2/17 - 1:00 – Finance/ House - First Reading - Health and Government Operations. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill requires Narcan to be available to related providers. The Committee decided to table this bill until they receive more information and will discuss at the next meeting. *Status: On Hold*
- a. SB398/HB421: Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners – Provision of Behavioral Health Services via Telehealth – Authorization, Senate - First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/ House - 2/10 - 1:30 - Health and Government Operations. The Committee decided to table this bill until the next meeting as it is a complicated issue. *Status: On Hold*
- b. SB400/HB410: Transportation – Highway User Revenue – Distribution, Senate - 2/09 - 1:00 - Budget and Taxation/ House - First Reading - Environment and Transportation. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill will restore the Highway Way revenue to 13.5% and she suggested that the Committee support the bill. Ms. Cassandra Vanhooser stated that this is a priority for MACo. Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion to move the status of the bill from monitor to support. Ms. Janice Palmer seconded it. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*
- c. SB404/HB422: Working Marylanders Tax Relief Act of 2022, Senate - 2/09 - 1:00 - Budget and Taxation. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated this bill relates to the earned income tax credit and the Committee should support what the administration as done. Mr. Greg Padgham moved to support the bill. Mr. John Hartline seconded it. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*
- d. SB405/HB420: Retirement Tax Elimination Act of 2022, Senate - First Reading - Budget and Taxation/ House - 2/23 - 1:00 - Ways and Means. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this was the Administration's tax relief act and this is similar to Senator Hershey's and the Committee should support it since we supported the previous one. The Committee decided to hold to check on the wording of the two bills. *Status: On Hold*
- e. HB403/SB561: Income Tax-Subtraction Modification-Employee Owned Business. Ms. Charlotte Davis that the Committee supported the bill two years ago and it

was suggested that the Committee support it. Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion to support the bill. Ms. Susan O'Neill Seconded it. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*

- f. SB423: Natural Gas - Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement - Surcharge and Plans (STRIDE Act of 2022), Senate - 2/15 - 1:00 – Finance: Ms. Charlotte Davis suggested that the Committee monitor the bill. The Committee decided to revisit at the next meeting. *Status: On Hold*
- g. SB437/HB540: Agriculture - University of Maryland Extension - Urban Farmer Assistance, House - First Reading – Appropriations/ Senate - First Reading - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/ House - First Reading – Appropriations. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill funds an urban agriculture extension agent. Mr. Steve McHenry made the motion to support the bill. Ms. Janice Palmer seconded it. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*
- h. SB453: Economic Development – Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program (Supported in the Past), Senate - 2/15 - 1:00 -(Finance) and Budget and Taxation. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill will create a grant program in TEDCO for makerspace and that the Committee supported it last year and we should continue to support it. Mr. Don Mulrine made a motion to support the bill. Ms. Janice Palmer seconded it. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The status for this bill was moved from monitor to support. *Status: Support*
- i. SB474: Economic Development - Western Maryland Economic Future Investment Board and Fund – Establishment, Senate - 2/15 - 1:00 - Budget and Taxation. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this would create a western Maryland economic future investment fund. Ms. Davis recommended that that bill be monitored since it does not support the entire state. The Committee found an error that the status was support and it should be monitor. Co-Chair Benzing asked for a motion to change the status from support to monitor. Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion. Mr. Scott Warner seconded it. Co-chair Benzing asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Andrew Cassilly asked the Committee if they would be interested to support the bill with an amendment that would move the fund around to different rural areas. The Committee decided to discuss this idea of an amendment at the next meeting. *Status: On Hold*
- j. SB478/HB541: Career and Technical Education Committee – Alterations, Senate - First Reading - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/ House - First Reading Ways and Means. The Committee decided keep the status of the bill to monitor. *Status: Monitor*
- k. SB518: Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program, Senate - First Reading – Finance. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill would provide grants to entities that provide training to health care works and we should consider it as we have shortage. The Committee decided to table it until next week for further discussion. *Status: On Hold*
- l. SB541: Natural Resources - Maryland Park Service and State Parks - Alterations (Great Maryland Outdoors Act), Senate - First Reading - Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that this bill is making multiple changes and it was recommended to discuss at the next meeting. *Status: On Hold*

- IV. Other: Co-Chair Chris Benzing asked if there were any additional bills to be discussed. Ms. Charlotte Davis stated that the bill introduction deadline is February 7, 2022 in the Senate and February 10, 2022 in the House so the Committee should expect to see a deluge of bills next week.
- a. Virtual Rural Maryland Day – Thursday, February 10, 2022, 8:30am to 12:30pm: Ms. Charlotte Davis asked Committee members to register for the event.
 - i. 2022 Talking Points and Materials
 - b. In-person Maryland Day Lunch on a Friday, March 25, 2022, 11:00am to 1:00pm
- V. Adjourn: Co-chair Chris Benzing asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Don Mulrine made the motion. Janice Palmer seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 7, 2022, 2pm-3pm, Zoom Teleconference